

CITY OF VANCOUVER

SPECIAL COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 22, 1973

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, November 22, 1973, at approximately 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of hearing licensees in the Downtown Eastside Area, to show cause why their licenses should not be cancelled.

PRESENT: Mayor Phillips
Aldermen Bowers, Gibson, Harcourt, Linnell,
Marzari, Massey, Pendakur, Rankin
and Volrich.

ABSENT: Alderman Hardwick

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: M. Kinsella

The Standing Committee of Council on Social Services, at its meeting on September 20, 1973, considered a Police Department report dated September 7, 1973, dealing with the problems of control of crime in the Skid Road area and efforts made to improve the operation of beer parlours in the Downtown Eastside Area. The Committee heard submissions from the Police Department in support of their report. It also heard from representatives of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association, the B.C. Hotels Association and the Beverage Dispensers Union. In addition, Mr. H.A.D. Oliver, appeared on behalf of Steams Hot Dogs and Mr. R. Cocking represented the Broadway Hotel, at that Committee meeting.

The Committee recommended that Council suspend the licenses of six downtown eastside beer parlours; cancel the license of the Parlour Dance Hall; restrict the operations of Steams Hot Dogs and the New Pender Cafe between midnight and 6:00 a.m.

Council, on October 2, 1973, when considering the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Social Services, passed a motion that the operators of the Broadway, Rainier, Columbia, Dominion, Commercial, and the New Dodson Hotels, the Parlour Dance Hall, Steams Hot Dogs, and the New Pender Cafe, be requested to appear before Council to show cause why their City license should not be cancelled.

Council met this day to give the licensees of the above mentioned premises, an opportunity to show cause why their licenses should not be cancelled. Council had before it the detailed reports of the Police Department on the various premises.

MOVED by Ald. Bowers,
SECONDED by Ald. Rankin,

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Phillips in the Chair.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Parlour Dance Hall (Licensee: Mr. R.E. Burrows)

Mr. W.H. Deverell, Counsel for the Licensee, Mr. R.E. Burrows, made an oral presentation on behalf of his client. During this presentation, Mr. Deverell directed questions to Mr. Burrows, Mr. Richardson, Manager of the Parlour, and Corporal Swan of the Vancouver Police Department.

At this point, the Council observed a short recess.

New Pender Cafe (Licensee: Hong Yick Tong Ltd.)

Mr. Deverell, on behalf of Mr. Wong, Manager of the New Pender Cafe, made an oral presentation. Mr. Wong and Mr. Ing, the translator, were present during consideration of this item. Corporal Swan spoke to this item and noted that the cafe is now closing voluntarily at approximately

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New Pender Cafe (cont'd)

12:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. daily. Mr. Deverell advised that Mr. Wong is now employing extra staff on the week-ends and is closing at 12:00 midnight.

Broadway Hotel (Licensee: Sunrise Hotel Ltd.)

Mr. R.E. Cocking, Counsel for Sunrise Hotel Limited, licensees of the Broadway Hotel, made an oral presentation. Mr. W. Brenner and Mr. S. Johnston, were present on behalf of the licensee. Mr. Cocking directed a number of questions to Corporal Swan. Mr. Cocking advised that since September 20, 1973, the hotel has hired a doorman. Inspector Herdman, Vancouver Police Department and Mr. B. Erikson, Downtown Eastside Residents Association also spoke to this matter.

Columbia Hotel (Licensee: Fraserview Hotel Co. Ltd.)

Mr. R. Brewer, appeared as Counsel for Fraserview Hotel Company Limited, the licensee, which was represented by Mr. A. Badack and Mr. A. Kullman. Mr. Brewer made an oral presentation on this matter.

Inspector Herdman advised that the beer parlour is now closing at 11:00 p.m. instead of 1:00 a.m. as previously.

During consideration of this matter, reference was made to the letter before Council from the Beverage Dispensers Union dated November 27, 1973.

The Council recessed at approximately 1:05 p.m. and reconvened in the Council Chamber at approximately 2:10 p.m. with the same personnel present.

Council agreed to hear an oral presentation by Mr. Rick Rule, a member of the Beverage Dispensers Union. Mr. Rule advised that he was speaking as an individual rather than representing the Union. He advised that one of the problems confronting waiters is the difficulty in getting I.D.'s from large groups of young people in order to determine their age. He stated that waiters frequently feel physically threatened when attempting to obtain I.D.'s from these groups.

Dominion Hotel (Licensee: J. & F. Enterprises Ltd.)

The Licensee, J. & F. Enterprises Limited, was represented by Mr. Pelich. Mr. Robert Kennedy, Counsel for the licensee, made an oral presentation and advised that the hotel beer parlour was closed by the Liquor Control Board from October 18, 1973 to November 1, 1973. The staff of the beer parlour has been completely changed since the closure. Corporal Swan spoke to this matter.

Commercial Hotel (Licensee: Commercial Hotel (Vancouver) Ltd.)

Mr. Robert Kennedy, Counsel for the licensee, Commercial Hotel (Vancouver) Ltd., made an oral presentation. He stated that since the matter of control of beer parlours was first before Council, the situation at this beer parlour has greatly improved. Corporal Swan stated that if the operations of this beer parlour continue as they are at present, the Police Department would have no cause for complaint.

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New Dodson Hotel (Licensee: New Dodson Hotel Co. Ltd.)

Messrs. A. and P. Minichello appeared on behalf of the licensee, New Dodson Hotel Co. Ltd. Mr. A. Jasich, Counsel for the licensee, made an oral presentation. He advised that almost all of the staff has recently been changed.

Corporal Swan spoke to this matter and stated that when Mr. A. Minichello was managing the beer parlour, there were little, if any, problems, however, when Mr. A. Minichello was not present, the operation of the beer parlour greatly deteriorated.

Steams Hot Dogs (Licensee: Harscol Enterprises Ltd.)

Mr. H.A.D. Oliver, Counsel for the licensee, Harscol Enterprises Ltd., made an oral presentation. He stated that his client has been cooperative with the Police in their efforts to eradicate any problems associated with this operation, e.g. the floodlights have been removed from outside the premises and the juke box has been disconnected. He introduced, for the information of Council, a document entitled "Steams Cafe Staff Security Instructions". He also advised that the licensee has hired a doorman to control access to the premises. Corporal Swan spoke to this matter.

At this point, the Council observed a short recess.

Rainier Hotel (Licensee: Rainier Hotel Ltd.)

Mr. G. Barrettoni was present on behalf of the licensee, Rainier Hotel Ltd. Mr. K.S. Fawcus, Counsel for the licensee, submitted a brief to Council on "Facts and Figures re the Rainier Hotel". Mr. Fawcus stated that all the waiters in the beer parlour have been changed and two additional staff members added during August - one bouncer and one waiter. Corporal Swan spoke on the matter and stated that to date, the Police Department has not had an opportunity to properly evaluate the improvement in the operation since its closure by the Liquor Control Board in October. There has not, however, been any reported crime in the beer parlour since it has re-opened. He stated the major problem in the Police Department's view, is the extremely weak control of the beer parlour operation by the bar manager.

Inspector Herdman, Vancouver City Police Department, at the request of Council, commented on the matter of business operations and business management from the Police Departmental point of view. Inspector Herdman advised Council that he had made the suggestion to the Hotels Association that they might investigate the establishment of a monitoring or a disciplinary body: this body in conjunction with the Police Department and other authorities could report from time to time on problems brought to their attention. Inspector Herdman pointed out that he had met with representatives of the B.C. Hotels Association on several occasions and had put forward this suggestion to the Association and the Union to develop a program which would result in acceptable standards of operation.

Mr. L. Valente, President of the B.C. Hotels Association, advised Council that the Association has set up a disciplinary board and will be asking Council, the Police Department and the Liquor Control Board to participate with this Board.

MOVED by Ald. Linnell,

THAT the Committee rise without reporting begging leave to sit again.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Ald. Linnell,

SECONDED by Ald. Rankin,

THAT the report of the Committee be adopted.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council adjourned at approximately 5:27 p.m.

The foregoing are Minutes of the Special Council meeting dated November 22, 1973, adopted by Council on December 4, 1973.


MAYOR


CITY CLERK